



EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – EXAMINING GROUP 2812

S/N 09/382442

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Alan R. Reinberg	Examiner:	Richard Booth
Serial No.:	09/382442	Group Art Unit:	2812
Filed:	August 25, 1999	Docket No.:	303.522US1
Title:	METHOD FOR REDUCING SINGLE BIT DATA LOSS IN A MEMORY CIRCUIT		

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on October 14, 2003. Claims 1, 2, 4-14, 26-32, and 35-39 are pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-2, 4-5, & 7-10 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakanishi (U.S. 5,145,797) in view of Lisenker et al. (WO 94/19829) and further in view of admitted prior art. The Examiner has acknowledged that Nakanishi does not teach the present invention which is a method for reducing random single bit data loss in a FLASH memory circuit having a programming operation and an erase operation that includes providing a semiconductor layer having a surface; and heating the layer in an atmosphere comprising a Hydrogen isotope wherein the Hydrogen isotope is incorporated into the layer.” The claims also include, “heating the thin layer in an atmosphere comprising Hydrogen isotope, wherein single bit data loss is reduced and wherein random single bit data loss is prevented in both the programming operation and the erase operation.”

Nakanishi does not employ hydrogen and therefore does not employ a hydrogen isotope to solve the problem of single bit data loss in a FLASH memory circuit. Instead, Nakanishi employs a phosphorus doping procedure with dry oxide to form an “ion-implantation induced damage protection film.” Use of hydrogen in this procedure is undesirable because it does not

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Image
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Customer No.: 21186



Serial No.: 09/382442

Due Date: January 14, 2004

Group Art Unit: 2812

Confirmation No.: 5236

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We are transmitting herewith the following attached items (as indicated with an "X"):

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X A Response Under 1.116 (4 Pages).

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SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.

Customer Number 21186

By: J. M. Kalis

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Reg. No. 37,650

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 15 day of December, 2003.

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Customer Number 21186

(GENERAL)